

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension)
)
of the Educator Certificate of)
)
Edwin D. Corning III)
)
Certificate 232638)

**CONSENT ORDER OF
SUSPENSION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on November 8, 2016. On October 3, 2016, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice to Mr. Corning informing him that the State Board would meet to make a determination regarding the possible suspension of his educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. Mr. Corning received the notice on October 12, 2016, as evidenced by the signed postal receipt. On October 17, 2016, Mr. Corning contacted the SCDE to discuss an alternative resolution of this matter. Mr. Corning has agreed to waive his right to a hearing and enter into a Consent Order of Suspension of his educator certificate 232638 for a one year period. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Mr. Corning's educator certificate for a period of one year commencing on November 8, 2016, and ending on November 7, 2017.

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FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Corning holds an educator certificate and has nine years of educator experience. He has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. He began employment with the Charleston County School District (District) in 2007. Mr. Corning was employed as a teacher at Wando High School (School) when allegations arose concerning an inappropriate comment made during class in the presence of students. The District placed Mr. Corning on administrative leave during an investigation in the allegations. The District determined that Mr. Corning violated District Policy GBEB, Employee Conduct, as a result of his disrespectful comment during class as well as his

excessively familiar communications with students on social media. Mr. Corning subsequently resigned from the District, effective May 5, 2016.

On October 3, 2016, the SCDE sent notice to Mr. Corning informing him that the State Board would meet to make a determination regarding the possible suspension of his educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. Mr. Corning received the notice on October 12, 2016, as evidenced by the signed postal receipt. On October 17, 2016, Mr. Corning contacted the SCDE to discuss an alternative resolution of this matter. Mr. Corning has informed SCDE that he regrets his unprofessional behavior and his violation of District policy GBEB, Employee Conduct. He is currently not employed in the field of education. He has agreed to waive his right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Suspension of his educator certificate 232638. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Mr. Corning's educator certificate for a period of one year commencing on November 8, 2016, and ending on November 7, 2017.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE demonstrates that Mr. Corning engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of his violation of District policy GBEB, Employee Conduct, by his disrespectful comment during class as well as his excessively familiar communications with students on social media. The State Board finds that the information presented supports its conclusion that just cause exists to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of the educator certificate of Edwin D. Corning, III, and to suspend Mr. Corning's educator certificate for a period of one year commencing on November 8, 2016, and ending on November 7, 2017.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Edwin D. Corning, III, certificate 232638, is suspended for a period of one year commencing on November 8, 2016, and ending on November 7, 2017.

If Mr. Corning wishes to have his certificate reinstated at the conclusion of the period of suspension, he shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator

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Services. Mr. Corning shall be responsible for meeting all certification requirements in effect at the time he requests reinstatement and for the payment of any applicable reinstatement fees. The suspension of Mr. Corning's educator certificate shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By:


Michael R. Brennan, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
November 8, 2016

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I, Edwin D. Corning III, S.C. Educator Certificate 232638, understand there has been an investigation concerning alleged violations of the laws and regulations governing the practice of educator certificate holders and that I have waived my right to a hearing in this matter. I agree that during the period of suspension, I will not serve as a volunteer in any type of educator role or be employed as an educator, paraprofessional, aide, substitute teacher, coach or in any other position in a public school in the State of South Carolina. I understand that the terms set forth in this Consent Agreement are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. I hereby freely, knowingly and voluntarily agree to the suspension of my educator certificate by the South Carolina State Board of Education. I agree to the proposed Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the South Carolina State Board of Education on November 8, 2016.


Edwin D. Corning, III

10/18/16
Date